

MAJESTIC FRAGMENTS: MORE PIECES OF THE SQUIER AND DAVIS COLLECTION

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Not all of the Hopewell effigy pipes from Squier and Davis' famous collection were pictured among the black line drawings in *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley*. Some were likely omitted due to their badly fragmented condition—indeed a few pipe fragments pictured in the British Museum catalog are in such bad condition, that in studying the photographs, it is difficult to tell what animal is being depicted.

However, a few badly fragmented examples retain a suggestion of the character of their original carved form. One such piece is the Hopewell platform effigy pipe shown in these British Museum photographs (figures 1-4), depicting a seated mammal, perhaps a bear or raccoon assembled from fragments.

Despite its shattered condition, the overall outline of the seated animal still reveals what a skillfully conceived piece of artwork it must have been. The neatly curved lines of the figure's back and hindquarters and its distinctly carved claws can still be discerned, suggesting a sense of strength or power in the depiction. Seated and facing the smoker, its slightly tilted head and peaked ears adds a feeling of animation, as well as sense of attention similar to that of other more complete Hopewell animal effigy pipes.

This pipe was found in Mound 8 of Mound City in Ross County, Ohio where other Hopewell effigy pipes from the Squier and Davis Collection were also found. The assembled piece measures 6.5 centimeters (2-5/8 inches) in length, 3.6 centimeters (1-1/2 inches) in width and 5.8 centimeters (2-1/4 inches) in height, and was made from

dark brown pipestone or hematite, according to Museum notes.

The unfortunate condition of some of the pipes is explained in Squier and Davis' description of the how the artifacts appeared, as they were unearthed from Mound 8:

Intermixed with much ashes, were found not far from two hundred pipes, carved in stone... The pipes were much broken up – some of them calcined by heat which had been sufficiently strong to melt copper, masses of which were found fused together in the centre of the basin. A large number have nevertheless been restored, at the expense of much labor and no small amount of patience. *Ancient Monuments*, p. 152

Squier and Davis reiterate the fragmentary condition of many artifacts in the later chapter on sculptures:

In many instances, the remains were so much broken up by the action of the fire, that it has been found impossible fully to restore them, although the utmost care was expended in collecting the fragments. *Ancient Monuments*, p. 243.

Additionally, it is worth remembering that these fragmented pipes were found in the mid 19th Century. They were excavated in an early period of archaeology when techniques for excavating, handling and preser-

vation were yet to be developed.

Three additional fragments from the Squier and Davis Collection are pictured in figure 5 along with two shown in a black line drawing from *Ancient Monuments*. These fragments also offer a glimpse of the animation that must have been present in their original condition, as is suggested the elegant shaped of the heads, as well as the amount of details carved into the face of each. There is also a sense of interest suggested in what must have been slightly tilted head position of each of the animal figures.

The fragment on the left is identified in the catalog as a bear made of light colored pipestone; the center piece is identified as a raccoon, made of pipestone darkened by fire; and the head fragment on the right is thought to depict either a wolf or a raccoon and is also made of pipestone. Museum catalog states that the three fragments were also found in Mound 8 of Mound City, and each measures between 2 and 2.8 centimeters in length and width.

The photographs of these fragments speak to the rough and delicate condition of some of some of the pipes and other artifacts in the collection. At the same time, these wonderful fragments further emphasize the amazing variety of figures that the Hopewell artists and craftsmen created in the effigy pipes as a group—both those of Mound City as well as those of Tremper Mound.

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Figure 1 (Rusnak)



Figure 2 (Rusnak)



Figure 3 (Rusnak)



Figure 4 (Rusnak)

Four views of a fragmented Hopewell effigy pipe from the Squier and Davis Mound City Cache. It probably depicts a bear.
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Figure 5 (Rusnak) Three fragments from animal effigy pipes.

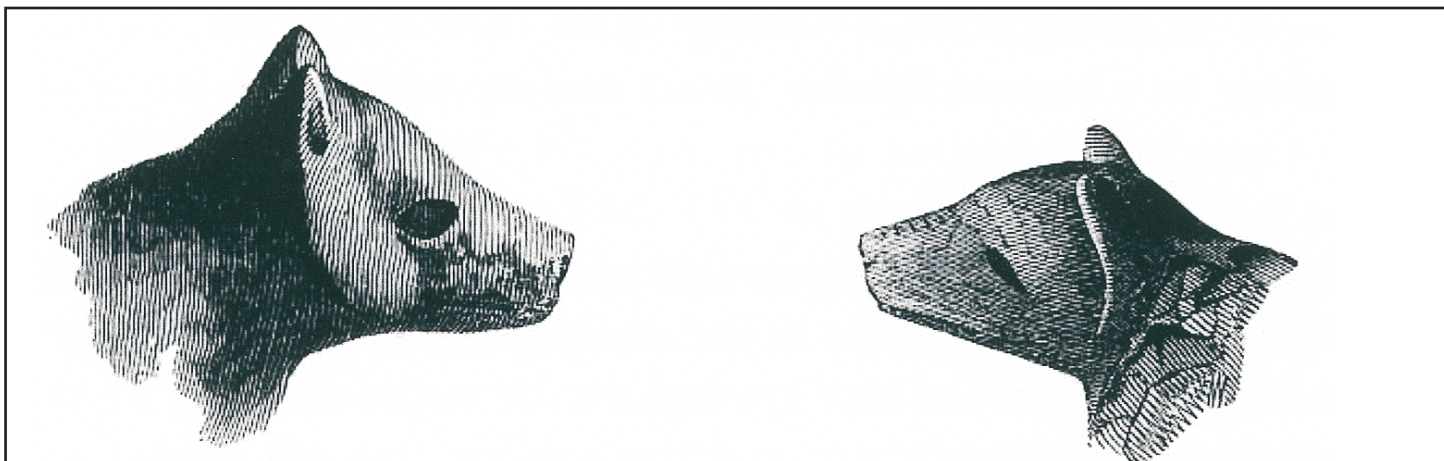


Figure 6 (Rusnak) Line drawing of pipe fragments from the Squier and Davis book *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley*.

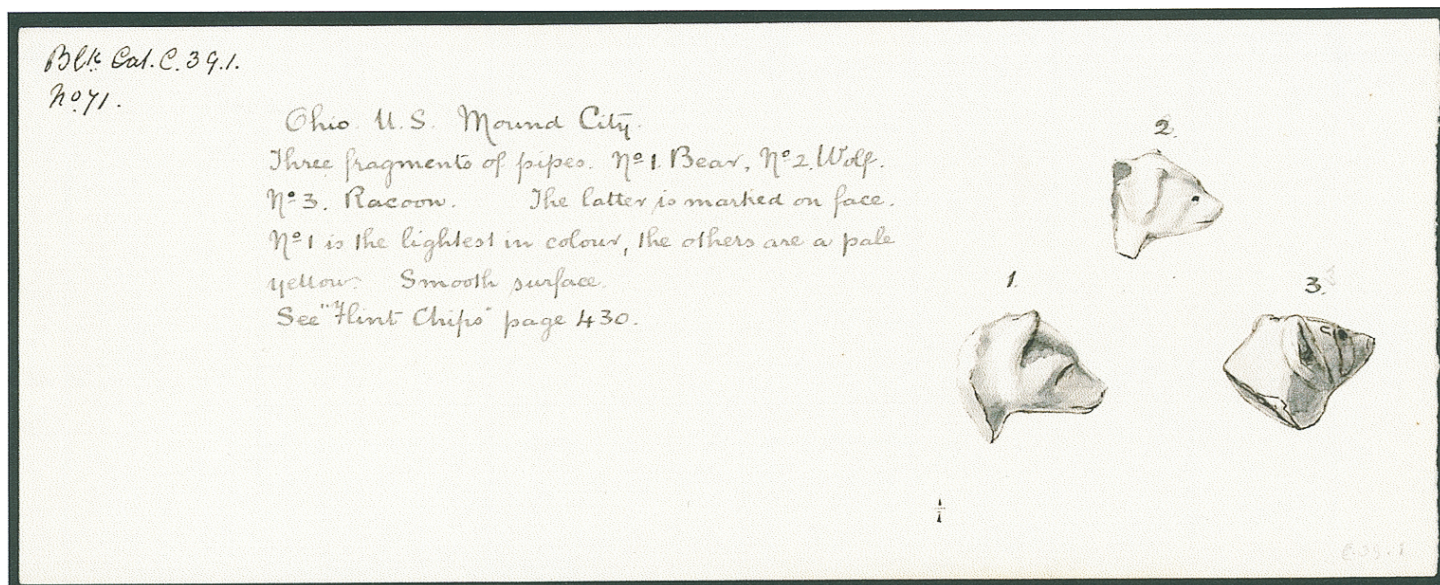


Figure 7 (Rusnak) Catalog entry for pipe fragments.